

Strathcona County

Living

Keeping you informed

December 2009



Left to right (back row): Councillors Glen Lawrence (Ward 7), Jason Gariepy (Ward 8), Peter Wlodarczak (Ward 4), Alan Dunn (Ward 6), Vic Bidzinski (Ward 1)
(front row) Roxanne Carr (Ward 2), Mayor Cathy Olesen, Jacquie Fenske (Ward 5), Linda Osinchuk (Ward 3)

Christmas greetings from Council

During the holiday season, we are particularly reminded of the caring and generous spirit within our community. Whether this takes the form of neighbours helping neighbours, service clubs and volunteers coming forward, or businesses supporting worthwhile causes, all of these actions contribute to making our community such a special place.

To you and your family, our best wishes for a safe and Merry Christmas; may you enjoy health, happiness and prosperity in the year ahead.

Message from your Mayor and Council

Capital Region Board: New plan, stronger relationships

Although politicians are often required to spend their days responding to the concerns of individual citizens, the most significant contribution we can make to you, your children and your grandchildren is to spend our time and efforts planning for your future.

If we as a community do not have an understanding of where we want to go and how we are going to get there, then we open the door for someone else to determine our fate.

This has never been more evident than with the work that has been going on for the past 18 months with the Capital Region Board.

I admit that we went into this cooperative endeavour with some reluctance. Our initial goal was simply to protect our autonomy while capturing the benefits of working as a region. I am pleased to say that we have accomplished this, and much more.

Thanks to the efforts of our Council and administrative representatives, we have developed stronger working relationships with the other 24 municipalities that make up the Capital Region Board. In particular, we are benefiting from a new spirit of cooperation with our biggest neighbour, the City of Edmonton.

All of the elected officials on the Capital Region Board recognize the need for municipal independence, but we also acknowledge that 25 collective voices representing 1.1 million people (30 per cent of all Albertans) will catch the ear of Provincial and Federal decision makers.

I was personally honoured to be named the Vice-Chair of the Capital Region Board. I am confident that this appointment was in a large part due to the strong relationships we have forged in the region.

Land use plan is central

The most significant work has focused on the future growth of the region and the development of a land use plan. We have addressed the key questions on the location of growth, population densities, employment centres, housing, transportation and transit links, buffers and environmental areas.

The plan is built on two principles:

- to reduce the development footprint by focusing growth, and
- to create a region that will be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable into the future.

The results of the Capital Region Board align very well with decisions made by our Council when we approved our new Municipal Development Plan (MDP) in 2007.

The principles on which the regional plan is built and the direction that has been approved are remarkably consistent with the feedback we received from County residents, businesses and community groups during the preparation of our own land use plan. It was gratifying to receive this validation of our efforts.

Industry has been a significant contributor to

our quality of life in Strathcona County and the Capital Region Board recognized the importance of our industrial partners, and specifically the Heartland initiative, to the economic prosperity of the region, Alberta and Canada. The continued development of the Heartland is identified as a priority in the plan.

This is a summary of the highlights of the Capital Region Growth Plan. I encourage you to visit the Capital Region Board website for complete information. The address is www.capitalregionboard.ab.ca.

I anticipate the final plan will be approved by the Capital Region Board by the December 31st Provincial deadline. The Province will provide us with their responses early in the new year.

In closing, I would like to add I am proud of our success at the regional table. We were required to participate, and I know the outstanding results can be attributed to the time and effort that has been devoted to the future of our community and region.

Personally, my respect has grown for Councillor Peter Wlodarczak who has participated from the beginning, as well as our administrative team led by Chief Commissioner Robyn Singleton and Associate Commissioner David Turner. More recently, Councillors Roxanne Carr and Alan Dunn have joined in the regional discussions on two CRB sub-committees. It has been an outstanding team effort and the results speak for themselves.

Cathy

—Cathy Olesen, Mayor

Community Centre will bring people together



Strathcona County has built many public buildings, but it's never constructed anything quite like the Community Centre.

Public buildings tend to serve specific needs, such as Festival Place (culture), Millennium Place (recreation), and County Hall (municipal services).

The Community Centre, the facility now under construction beside County Hall in Sherwood Park, will accommodate many different uses.

"We're going to have public intermixing in a vibrant location—a melding of people," says Diehl Townsley, manager of facility services.

1 The **main entrance** is from the north, opening into a nine-metre-high hallway called the Galleria. This "spine" of the building takes people to their various destinations, whether it's the room where their organization is hosting a meeting, a public hearing in Council Chambers, or a family visit to the library. The Galleria also connects the Community Centre to existing County Hall. This interior street will feature art that reflects Strathcona's rural and urban identity.

2 The new **library** is on the right as visitors enter. For more on the new library, see page 3.

3 Flexible **meeting rooms** will be available for rental by community groups for meetings or other events. Movable walls will make this area particularly flexible to allow for the creation of large, medium or small rooms as required.

4 The new **Council Chambers** is being planned with a warm and inviting ambience, where citizens feel welcome to attend and participate in Council meetings. An added bonus is that Council Chambers will have flexible seating and other features that make it suitable for other presentations and events in addition to Council meetings.

5 The **Galleria** also links to the Family and Community Services wing. The entire building is designed for universal accessibility to accommodate citizens of all ages and all needs.

6 The **art gallery** will offer display space for local and travelling exhibits, as well as space for art programs.

7 The **Agora** is guaranteed to be one of the Community Centre's most unique aspects. Agora, which is the Greek word for "public meeting space," is a large space that will be the future site of many community celebrations.

The Agora wasn't created with one use in mind—it can accommodate many different functions—for example, farmers' markets, mini-trade fairs, performances, history or heritage fairs, festivals and more. The Agora can accommodate up to 500 people.

8 **Volunteer Plaza** can host public events, so that celebrations in the Agora can spill out into the plaza. The plaza is located at the east end of the Prairie Walk, where people can stroll to Broadmoor Lake Park, the traditional site of community celebrations. The length of the Prairie Walk is set up for kiosks, allowing for a European-style pedestrian shopping area.

Prairie Walk will connect the Community Centre to many other existing amenities in the area, including Festival Place, the Sherwood Park Arena, and the Kinsmen Leisure Centre.

Update on rural high-speed Internet

Strathcona County is continuing in its efforts to make high-speed Internet service more widely available in rural areas. Here is a summary of recent developments.

- On November 24, Council gave its support to applications for seven proposed communication towers. The proposals come from MCSNet, a company that was chosen earlier this year as the County's preferred partner for rural Internet service. The seven applications will now go to Industry Canada, which has the authority to grant approval. All seven towers are north of Highway 16.

- These are the first of perhaps another 20 or so applications expected for communication towers throughout Strathcona County. Each one must be considered from the perspective of factors such as land zoning, resident feedback and proximity to sensitive environmental areas.

However, knowing the importance that many residents place on high-speed Internet, Strathcona County will be reviewing new applications in a staged approach rather than one full project. This allows for progress to be made in areas where these factors are favourable to the tower being constructed.

- MCSNet is exploring the possibility of using an existing tower just east of the Strathcona/Lamont County boundary to provide Internet service to Strathcona County residents north of Highway 16. MCSNet was chosen earlier this year as Strathcona's preferred partner through a competitive process on the basis of its coverage area, price, ability to grow, and customer service.

Recommendations to improve rural Internet service in rural Strathcona County originated from a report produced by a community committee that looked into new technologies and best practices.

A Tale of Two Storeys: the new Strathcona County Library



Strathcona County Library will be opening its doors in the new Community Centre in just less than a year from now, if all goes according to plan. And what a plan it is!

The biggest change for Strathcona County Library will be the size—doubling from the existing 32,500 square feet on one level to 64,000 square feet over two storeys.

The new library will have something for the whole family. There will be room for every type of user from quiet study areas to dynamic and interactive children's areas, from a welcoming space for teens to hang out, to cozy nooks for anyone to curl up with a good book.

The new library will also have an Internet café, wireless Internet access throughout the facility, meeting rooms that can be booked for group study, more program and public meeting rooms, a Career Centre to support both employers and employees, a space to park the Bookmobile indoors, and lots of flexible spaces to meet the changing needs of our



Campaign Co-Chairs: Flossie Bodell and Doug Fulford, representing rural and urban Strathcona County respectively, are leading the community effort in support of the new Library.

growing community.

Hand-in-hand with increased space will be a bigger collection, newer and revitalized—with more books, DVDs, CDs, kits, and magazines for all age groups.



The new Strathcona County Library, under construction as part of the Community Centre in Centre in the Park.

The Capital Campaign— a family affair

Since 1977, the Strathcona County Library has been part of the lives of many families.

It's natural, then, that members of the community are now coming together to raise money in support of the new library. Their goal is ambitious: to raise \$1.5 million of the total \$4.46 million needed in order to purchase new books, shelving, furniture and equipment.

Every member of the Campaign Cabinet and every Honourary Family has a story—and a reason why they are supporting the new library. To meet them, visit www.sclibrary.ab.ca.

Campaign Cabinet

Co-Chairs: Flossie Bodell (rural)
Doug Fulford (urban)
Reg Marler
Judy Schultz
Sue Colp
Colin Vann
Muriel Abdurahman,
Library Board Chair
Ian McCormack
Lee Ahlstrom
Joanne Cave
Bruce Pennock
Anna Pandos
Sharon Siga, Library Director

Honourary Families

The Saik Family
The Belcourt Family
The Genuis Family
The Bodell Family
The Stelmach Family

Give your organics cart a winter lining

Line the bottom and sides of your organics cart with newspaper. Then make sure to layer wet organics (food waste, leaves) with dry organics (newspaper, pizza boxes). This will reduce the possibility of organics freezing to the cart when the temperatures drop. Layering is even more important during the time of year when temperatures fluctuate frequently.



Don't pack it in

Don't pack contents of the cart down. Organic materials may become stuck in the cart and the truck may not be able to fully empty it.

Wrap it up!

Wrap wet or smelly organics in soiled boxes (cereal or shoe box), paper bags or newspaper to help prevent them from freezing to the cart.

Pull don't push

When there is snow on the ground, pull your organics or waste cart—don't push. The bottom of the cart will cause snow to build up making it difficult to move. Pulling the cart won't cause snow to build up while moving the cart.

Be friendly

Get to know your neighbours. If they need help getting their cart to the curb, ask if you can do it for them.

Pride of Strathcona Awards

Strathcona County's civic awards

Do you know someone who has made a significant personal achievement, or someone who keeps giving back to the community?

A young person? An adult? A senior? A group or team?

If you know of a deserving individual or group, nominate them.

Deadline for nominations: January 31

Further information:

www.strathcona.ab.ca/pride
780-464-8022

Categories

Arts and culture
Athletics
Contributions to community life
Professional achievement

Be a good neighbour...

Help a senior with snow removal this winter



Make a difference in the life of a senior. Take a few extra minutes when shovelling your sidewalk or ploughing your own driveway to give someone else a hand.

Seniors with physical limitations need your help keeping their walkways and driveways clear of ice and snow.

Having someone take care of snow clearing:

- helps seniors remain in their homes safely
- prevents injuries due to slips and falls
- ensures safe access out for groceries and appointments

Don't know a senior who needs your help? Still want to lend a hand?

Volunteer with Snow Busters. Call 780-464-4044

Did you know?

- Slips and falls account for 75 per cent of injury hospital admissions for seniors.
- Social isolation can lead to risk of depression and other health issues.
- Strong social supports and community connections lead to better health and wellness for seniors.

Strathcona County snow CLEARING



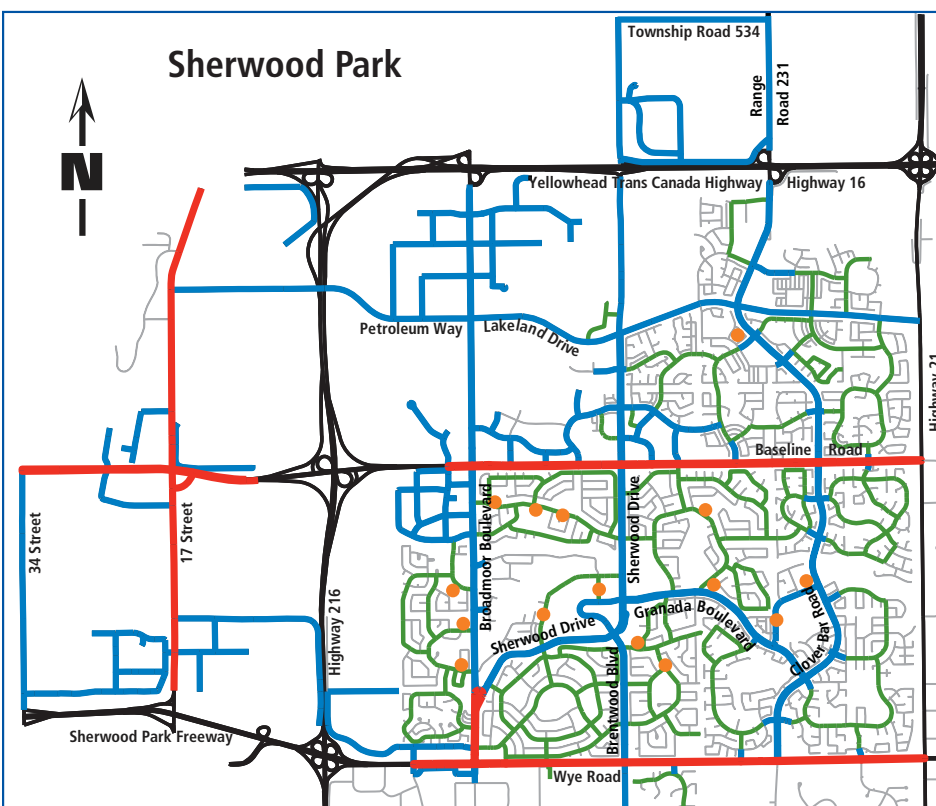
Sherwood Park priorities

	Descriptions	Snow is cleared...
Priority 1	Major thoroughfares	Within 12 hours following an accumulation of 2 to 5 cm of snow
Priority 2	Arterial roads	Within 12 hours following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School drop-off zones 	Within 72 hours following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow Transit stop zones are cleared after school drop-off zones
Priority 3	Collector roads, public transit routes	Within 8 days snow is windrowed and removed following an accumulation of 15 to 21 cm of snow
Priority 4	Residential Streets (not included in the above categories)	Within 12 days when there is 10 cm of compacted snow, windrowing and removal of snow in cul-de-sacs is completed Within 12 days if there is 7 cm of compacted snow on the streets as of January 1 of any year, windrowing and removal of snow piles in cul-de-sacs is completed (After March 1, snow may be windrowed and left to melt.)

Highways Government of Alberta contractors maintain all highways. Call **Carillion Canada** at 1-800-390-2242.

Rural snow clearing priorities

	Descriptions	Snow is cleared...
Priority 1	Major industrial roadway/ Strathcona Airport (Josephburg)	Within 12 hours following an accumulation of 2 to 5 cm of snow
Priority 2	Thoroughfares	Within 12 hours following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow
Priority 3	All remaining roads, including country residential roads	Within 3 days following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow
Highways	Government of Alberta contractors maintain all highways. Call Carillion Canada at 1-800-390-2242.	



Strathcona County's winter maintenance crews are ready for changing road conditions

Call to let us know about conditions that need attention—for example, icy roads, snow removal, downed traffic signs or traffic lights that are not working. If you phone after hours, you will be forwarded to one of our on-call staff.

Clearing your driveway

For the safety of the travelling public, please do not deposit snow on or across the road when clearing your driveway. (Bylaw 33-94 Deposit of Snow, Ice and Debris on Roads)

Snow plows on the road/street

The charts show when road snow clearing begins based on snow accumulation and the priority ranking of the road. Streets with higher speed limits and heavier traffic have the highest priority—these roads are plowed first.

Road/street sanding

High traffic volume roads are sanded first. Special attention is given to hills, curves and intersections. Roads are inspected regularly to determine where traction is needed. Streets are sanded according to the priority shown—those with the highest volume first.

Trail clearing

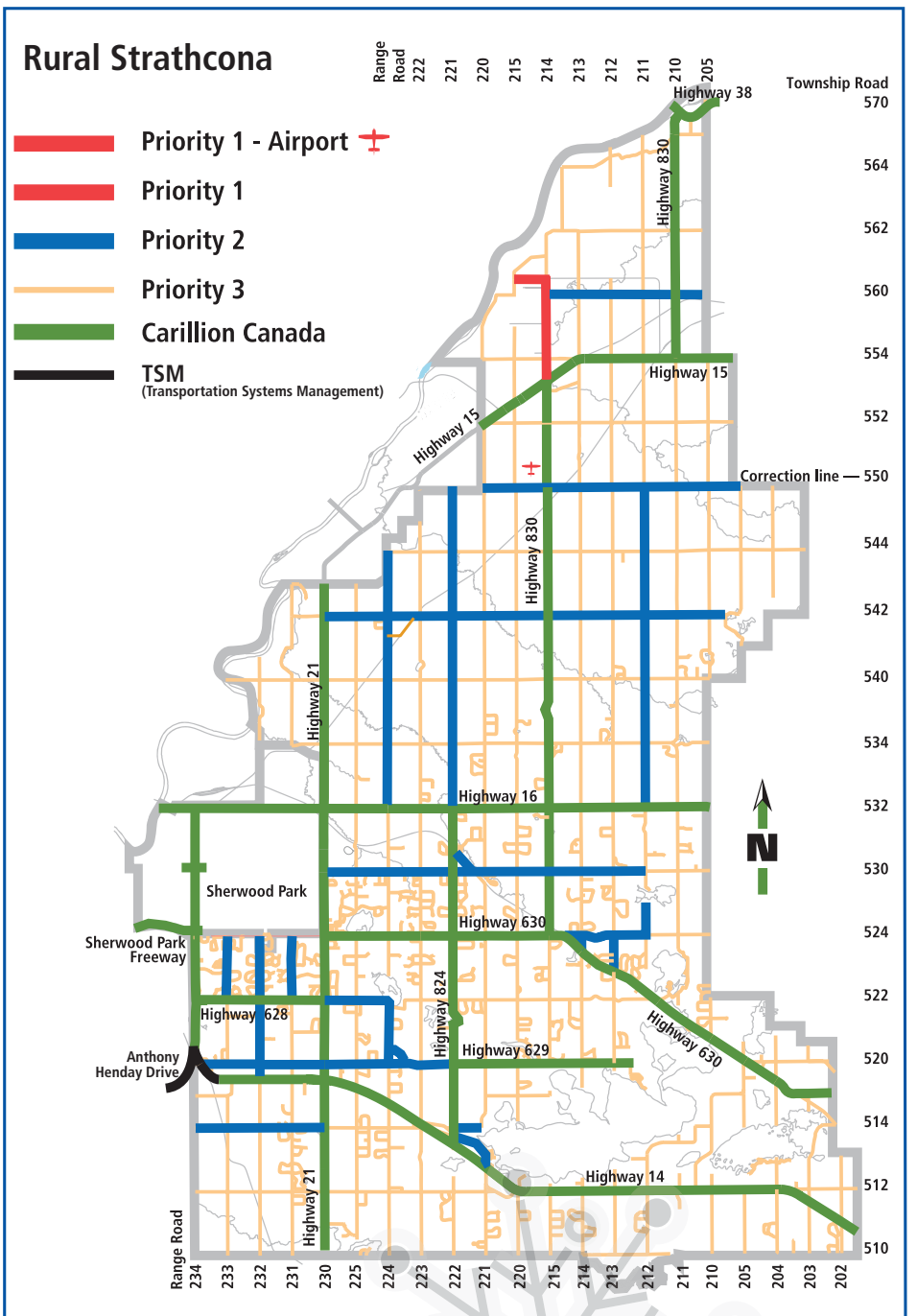
The trails in Sherwood Park are cleared after Priority 2 streets and school drop-off zones.

Sanding icy sidewalks

Many neighbourhoods in Sherwood Park have sand boxes placed near mailboxes. Feel free to use this sand. For a complete list of locations, go to www.strathcona.ab.ca/tas

Is your rural mailbox secure?

Are the bolts tight? If not, snow from the plow may be enough to dislodge the mailbox from the post. Take a look and make sure it is well fastened.



Further information

780-417-7100 (24-hour number)
www.strathcona.ab.ca/tas

Strathcona County

TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURE SERVICES

Thank you for your cooperation.

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